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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-Hour Report

23 JANUARY 2020

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas - CBP Officers Arrest Man Wanted on Sexual Assault Warrant

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Laredo Port of Entry detained a man traveling in a commercial bus who attempted to make entry into the US. CBP databases revealed the man had an outstanding warrant for sexual assault. A CBP officer at primary inspection referred Arturo Gonzales Lopez, a 66-year-old Mexican citizen, for a secondary examination. After being escorted to secondary, subsequent biometric verification through law enforcement databases confirmed that the man had an outstanding felony warrant for sexual assault-continuous sexual abuse of a young child with the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.

SOURCE: 22 January 2020, CBP

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Maryland – The Accused in National Harbor Terror Plot may be Mentally Unfit for Trial

(U) Baltimore – A psychologist who examined a man accused of planning an attack inspired by the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) at a shopping and entertainment complex near Washington, DC, found "ample evidence" that he is mentally unfit to assist in his defense, a court filing says. Neither prosecutors nor a defense attorney for Rondell Henry plan to dispute the opinion that a court-appointed forensic psychologist from the Federal Bureau of Prisons detailed in a 20 December 2019 report. The lawyers agree that Henry should be hospitalized at a Bureau of Prisons facility for up to four-months to determine if he will "attain the capacity to permit the proceedings to go forward," the filing says. SOURCE: 22 January 2020, <u>US News</u>

(U) New York - Guilty Plea for Attempting to Provide Material Support to Terrorist Organization

(U) Manhattan – Authorities announced that Jesus Wilfredo Encarnacion, pled guilty to attempting to provide material support to Lashkar e-Tayyiba ("LeT"), a Pakistani-based designated foreign terrorist organization responsible for multiple high-profile attacks, including the November 2008 Mumbai, India attacks. Encarnacion plotted to travel abroad to join and train with the terrorist organization. He pled guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization, which carries a maximum sentence of 20-years in prison.

SOURCE: 23 January 2020, DOJ

(U) Virginia – White Supremacists Wanted Rally to Start Civil War

(U) Richmond – A hidden camera captured members of a white supremacist group expressing hope that violence at a gun rights rally in Virginia could start a civil war, according to authorities. Former Canadian Armed Forces reservist Patrick Jordan Mathews also videotaped himself advocating for killing people, poisoning water supplies, and derailing trains. But the 27-year-old Canadian national was unaware investigators were watching and listening when he and two other group members talked about attending the Richmond rally in the days leading up to Monday's event, which attracted tens of thousands of people and ended peacefully.

SOURCE: 22 January 2020, AP

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(U) Washington – Eight Shot, One Dead in Downtown Seattle Shooting

(U) Seattle – Police said at least one person was killed and five people were in critical condition, including a child, following a shooting incident Wednesday in the heart of downtown Seattle, the second shooting in the area in 24 hours. Two suspects are being sought in connection with the shooting, which occurred at or near a McDonalds at 3rd Avenue and Pine Street shortly after 5 p.m. local time. It was not immediately clear what prompted the gunfire or the extent of the victims' injuries. Sound Transit resumed normal operations at all stations.

SOURCE: 22 January 2020, WJLA

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Albania – Eight Ethnic Albanians Convicted In Kosovo of Terrorism Charges

(U) Pristina – Kosovo court on Wednesday convicted eight ethnic Albanian men of preparing terrorist acts and trying to destabilize the country's constitutional order. The court in the capital city of Pristina handed out prison terms ranging from two to 12-years to eight members of the so-called People's Eye group, according to local authorities. The men wanted to destabilize and destroy Kosovo's fundamental political, economic, and constitutional structures. The convicted men will appeal their sentences. SOURCE: 22 January 2020, <u>US News</u>

(U) China – Authorities Restrict Transportation as Suspected Cases Emerge in Latin America

(U) Wuhan – Authorities in Wuhan announced a decision to suspend all public transportation including bus, rail, and ferry networks beginning on 23 January due to the ongoing Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. Outbound flights at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, as well as outbound trains from the city, will also be suspended until further notice. It remains unknown if flights will be allowed to depart from Hannan Municipal Airport, which exclusively serves general aviation flights. Furthermore, Wuhan authorities announced a mandate to wear face masks in public, and instructed citizens not to leave the city borders.

SOURCE: 22 January 2020, Washington Post

(U) Sudan – Gunmen Attack Village in Abyei Region

(U) Kolom – A group of armed assailants attacked the village of Kolom, located in the disputed Abyei region along the Sudan-South Sudan border. The perpetrators set fire to several homes, killing at least 29 people and injuring at least 18 others before fleeing the site. No group has claimed responsibility; however, violent clashes between semi-nomadic ethnic Messiria herdsmen and local ethnic Dinka villagers have occurred in the Abyei region, which remains under control of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Additional UNISFA forces have deployed to the area.

SOURCE: 22 January 2020, Al Jazeera

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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